

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. By this Amendment, claims 1-4, 15, and 16 have been cancelled. Therefore, upon entry of this Amendment, claims 5-14 and 27 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,154,452, hereafter “Nakamura”) in view of newly cited Sugimoto (U.S. Patent No. 6,897,850). Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over newly cited Chiu et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0030255, hereafter “Chiu”) in view of Nakamura. Claims 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura in view of Someya et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,759,996, hereafter “Someya”). Claims 9-14 are allowed. By this Amendment, Applicant has cancelled claims 1-4, 15, and 16, thereby rendering moot the rejections of claims 1-4, 15 and 16. Claims 5-7 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 5 has been rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 5-7 are now in condition for allowance.

Rejection of claim 8 based on Chiu and Nakamura

Applicant respectfully submits that Chiu does not qualify as prior art. Applicant notes that the present application claims priority from JP 2002-354749 filed December 6, 2002 while the Chiu publication was filed on August 7, 2003. Therefore, the earliest effective filing date for the subject matter relied on by the Examiner in Chiu is August 7, 2003. Since the foreign priority date of the present application is earlier than the U.S. filing date of Patent Application

Publication No. 2002/011204, Chiu must be removed as prior art. By this Amendment,
Applicant provides a verified English translation of JP 2002-354749.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed
to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the
Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is
kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue
Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any
overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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